

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03836 191308Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 /057 W
-----191314Z 007257 /50

O P 191030Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1038

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJECT: ARMY'S ROLE IN CURRENT CRISIS

1. BBC CORRESPONDENT ANDREW WHITLEY HAD APPOINTMENT TO INTERVIEW IV CORPS COMMANDER LT. GENERAL IQBAL ON FRIDAY, APRIL 15 IN LAHORE. IQBAL IS SENIOR CORPS COMMANDER AND HE AND GENERAL ARBAB, THE CORPS COMMANDER IN KARACHI, ARE CONSIDERED TO BE MOST INFLUENTIAL ARMY GENERALS AFTER CHIEF OF STAFF ZIA. ALL OBSERVERS AGREE THAT IQBAL AND ARBAB WILL PLAY CENTRAL ROLE IF ARMY IS FORCED TO ACTIVELY INTERVENE IN THE CONFRONTATION.

2. WHITLEY DID NOT MEET IQBAL, BUT INSTEAD INTERVIEWED IQBAL'S AIDE, A BRIGADIER. WHITLEY WAS STRUCK BY THE BRIGADIER'S CANDOR AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE ARMY'S ROLE. BEFORE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 03836 191308Z

LEAVING PAKISTAN OVER THE WEEKEND, WHITLEY PASSED SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW TO BBC CORRESPONDENT MARK TULLY WHO IS RESIDENT IN LAHORE. TULLY MET WITH EMBOFF AND CONGEN OFFICER APRIL 18 AND MENTIONED FOLLOWING GLEANED FROM WHITLEY INTERVIEW.

3. IT HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY FOR THE CORPS COMMANDERS TO HOST DINNERS FOR THE PM WHEN HE VISITS THE PROVINCES. WHILE IN

LAHORE THIS PAST WEEK, IQBAL HAD NOT OFFERED TO HOST A FUNCTION, SO THE PM REQUESTED THAT HE DO SO. IN RESPONSE, IQBAL HOSTED A RECEPTION APRIL 14. ACCORDING TO WHITLEY INTERVIEW AND PAKISTANI JOURNALISTIC SOURCES, IQBAL ACTED VERY FORMAL AND PROPER WITH THE PM AND, FOR EXAMPLE, DID NOT MEET HIM OUTSIDE THE MESS AS IS CUSTOMARY.

4. BHUTTO ASKED THAT NO OFFICERS BELOW THE RANK OF FULL COLONEL BE INVITED TO THE RECEPTION SINCE LOWER RANKING OFFICERS HAVE ASKED EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS, MOST RECENTLY AT DINNER HOSTED BY GENERAL ARBAB IN KARACHI SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. THE BRIGADIER, IN AN INDIRECT WAY, INDICATED TO TULLY THAT PM ASKED TO GET TOGETHER WITH IQBAL AND HIS SENIOR OFFICERS DURING THE AFTER-NOON OF THE RECEPTION. DURING THE MEETING BHUTTO-IN CIRCUITOUS MANNER-ASKED WOULD THE ARMY BE WILLING TO HAVE MARTIAL LAW WITH BHUTTO AS CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR IF THE SECURITY SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. IQBAL, IN A SIMILAR CAUTIOUS AND POLITE MANNER, ANSWERED NO. IQBAL WENT ON TO INDICATE TO PM HE COULD NOT EXPECT THE ARMY TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT HIM IN ATTEMPTING TO FORCE A SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT CRISIS ON THE NATION.

5. THE BRIGADIER-AND A PAKISTANI JOURNALIST IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF-SAID THAT ORDERS HAD GONE OUT FROM PPP HEADQUARTERS THIS PAST WEEK TO ARM PPP SUPPORTERS SO THEY COULD "PROTECT THEMSELVES" AGAINST THE PNA. DURING EARLY MORNING, WHEN THE ARMS WERE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO PPP LOCAL OFFICES IN LAHORE, THE AGKM INTERCEPTED SOME OF THE SHIPMENTS AND IS STILL HOLDING THE ARMS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 03836 191308Z

6. WHITLEY'S INTERVIEW SUPPORTS THE POSITION WHICH WE HAVE EARLIER REPORTED. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE ARMY DOES NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PRESENT CRISIS, IS HOPING FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION, AND WILL NOT ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE PM IN FORCING A SOLUTION.

BYROADE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISLAMA03836
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770135-0960
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770444/aaaabllm.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bbf0b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2767124
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARMY'S ROLE IN CURRENT CRISIS
TAGS: PINT, MILI, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bbf0b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009